

CuI/Oxalic Diamide Catalyzed Coupling Reaction of (Hetero)Aryl Chlorides and Amines

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S Supporting Information

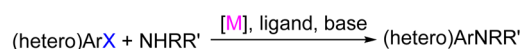
ABSTRACT: A class of oxalic diamides are found to be effective ligands for promoting CuI-catalyzed aryl amination with less reactive (hetero)aryl chlorides. The reaction proceeds at 120 °C with K₃PO₄ as the base in DMSO to afford a wide range of (hetero)aryl amines in good to excellent yields. The bis(*N*-aryl) substituted oxalamides are superior ligands to *N*-aryl-*N'*-alkyl substituted or bis(*N*-alkyl) substituted oxalamides. Both the electronic nature and the steric property of the aromatic rings in ligands are important for their efficiency.

N-Aryl amine moieties are important structural features that are ubiquitously found in numerous natural products, pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, and material molecules.¹ A typical approach for preparing *N*-aryl amines is the copper-catalyzed Ullmann coupling reaction of aryl halides with amines.² Traditionally, the reaction required a high reaction temperature and the stoichiometric amount of copper reagent, which greatly limited the reaction scope.² During the past two decades, two breakthroughs have appeared to overcome these drawbacks. One is the development of palladium-catalyzed coupling of aryl halides with amines using sterically hindered phosphine ligands (Buchwald–Hartwig reaction).³ Another one is the discovery of efficient bidentate ligands that have promoted copper-catalyzed Ullmann-type reactions.^{4–16} These progresses have greatly extended the reaction scope of aryl aminations and allowed these reactions to proceed under mild conditions. Thanks to these advances, the aryl aminations have been intensively applied in the synthesis of functional molecules by researchers in both academia and industry.^{3f–k,16,17} However, further breakthroughs are required to make these reactions more attractive. In Cu/ligand-catalyzed aryl amination reaction, one key problem is that less expensive aryl chlorides are still poor substrates,^{5,18} which has been considered for years as the weakness of such method in comparison with Buchwald–Hartwig reaction.^{3k,16} In consideration of the relative low cost of catalysts and ligands in copper-catalyzed aryl aminations, it is highly desirable that a copper catalyst can sufficiently activate aryl chloride substrates. Herein, we wish to disclose our results by discovering oxalic diamides as powerful ligands for copper catalysis. With these ligands, the amination of (hetero)aryl chlorides could proceed under mild conditions with CuI as the catalyst (Scheme 1).

In search of effective ligands for Cu-catalyzed coupling reactions, we realized that the electronic nature of the ligands

Scheme 1. Coupling Reactions of (Hetero)Aryl Halides with Amines under the Catalysis of Palladium and Copper Complexes

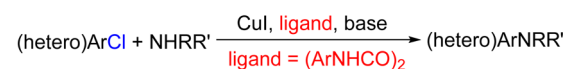
Previous work



M = Pd, X = I, Br, Cl, OSO₂R^m

M = Cu, X = I, Br

This work

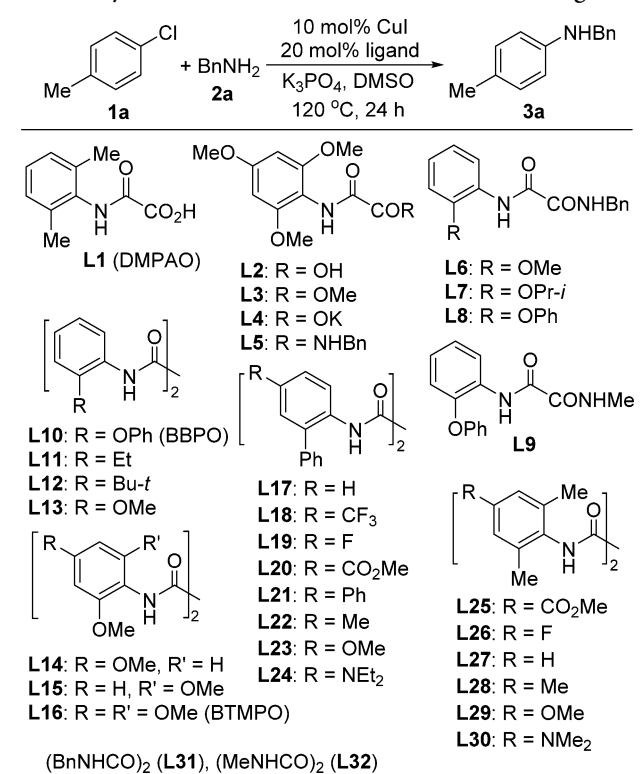


are particularly important for their efficiency.¹⁹ We therefore became interested in developing aromatic bidentate ligands because their electronic nature can be finely tuned by introducing different substituents on the aromatic rings.^{19b–d} In 2012, we revealed that 2-(2,6-dimethylphenylamino)-2-oxoacetic acid (DMPAO) effectively promoted CuI-catalyzed *N*-arylation of acyclic secondary amines that were considered as the difficult substrates previously,^{19b} but as well as primary amines even at low catalytic loadings. Its excellent reactivity prompted us to challenge the Cu-catalyzed aryl amination of aryl chlorides. Accordingly, we conducted a CuI/DMPAO catalyzed coupling of 4-methylphenyl chloride with benzylamine and found that reaction occurred at 120 °C in DMSO under the assistance of K₃PO₄, albeit with a low conversion (Table 1, entry 1). Changing the ligand with a more electron-rich 2-(2,4,6-trimethoxyphenylamino)-2-oxoacetic acid (L2) gave a similar result (entry 2). Surprisingly, its methyl ester (L3) could dramatically increase the conversion to afford arylamine 3a in 74% yield (entry 3). Since the corresponding potassium salt L4 still gave a low yield of 3a (entry 4), we thought that this salt should not be the active ligand. After examining the reaction mixture carefully, we found that L3 was indeed converted into the corresponding diamide L5 during the coupling reaction. When L5 was directly used, coupling product 3a was obtained in 75% yield (entry 5), indicating that this oxalic diamide is a real ligand for coupling reaction.

In response to this exciting result, we explored the structure–efficiency relationship of a number of oxalic diamides. Thus, L6–

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Table 1. CuI-Catalyzed Coupling of 4-Methylphenyl Chloride with Benzylamine under the Assistance of Different Ligands^a

entry	ligand	yield (%) ^b	entry	ligand	yield (%) ^b
1	L1	15	21	L21	77
2	L2	16	22	L22	87
3	L3	74	23	L23	88
4	L4	10	24	L24	92
5	L5	75	25 ^c	L25	21
6	L6	62	26 ^c	L26	49
7	L7	74	27 ^c	L27	65
8	L8	73	28 ^c	L28	69
9	L9	56	29 ^c	L29	92
10	L10	86	30 ^c	L30	94
11	L11	45	31	L31	61
12	L12	17	32	L32	11
13	L13	66	33 ^d	L16	84
14	L14	73	34 ^e	L16	78
15	L15	82	35 ^f	L16	49
16	L16	92	36 ^g	L16	29
17	L17	76	37 ^h	L16	65
18	L18	23	38 ⁱ	L16	48
19	L19	61	39 ^j	L16	38
20	L20	48	40 ^k	L16	91 (89) ^l

^aGeneral conditions: **1a** (0.5 mmol), **2a** (0.75 mmol), CuI (0.05 mmol), ligand (0.1 mmol), base (1 mmol), solvent (1.0 mL), 120 °C, 24 h. ^bThe yield was determined by ¹H NMR analysis of crude products using CH₂Br₂ as the internal standard. ^cThe reaction was conducted at 115 °C with 5 mol % CuI, 10 mol % ligand, and 110 mol % K₃PO₄. ^dDMF as the solvent. ^eDMA as the solvent. ^fMeCN as the solvent. ^g*t*-BuOH as the solvent. ^hCs₂CO₃ as the base. ⁱK₂CO₃ as the base. ^jNa₂CO₃ as the base. ^k5 mol % CuI, 5 mol % ligand, and 100 mol % K₃PO₄ were used. ^lIsolated yield.

L13 were synthesized from the corresponding monosubstituted anilines. Screening of these ligands demonstrated that 2-methoxyaniline derived diamide **L6** was still active to provide **3a** in 62% yield (entry 6), while improved yields were obtained

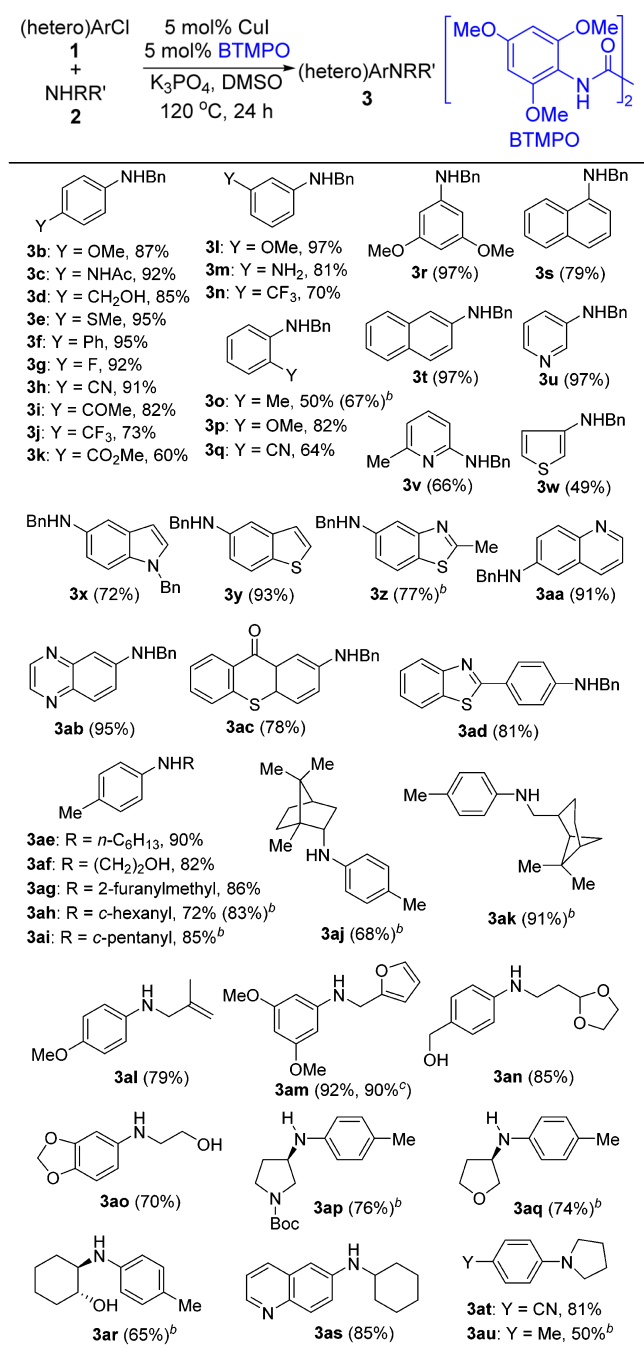
by employing isopropoxy and benzyloxy substituted ligands (entries 7 and 8), presumably because their larger substituents at the *ortho*-position of anilines could prevent the hydrolysis of the ligands.²⁰

Changing the *N*-benzyl of **L8** to *N*-methyl led to formation of **3a** in a decreased yield (entry 9). However, complete conversion was observed when *N,N'*-bis(2-benzyloxyphenyl)-oxalamide (BBPO, **L10**) was utilized (entry 10), which implied that bis(*N*-aryl) substituted oxalamides are more effective ligands. Further investigations indicated that electronic nature of the aromatic ring in ligands played an important role for their efficiency. When the benzyloxy group in **L10** was replaced with less electron-rich ethyl and *t*-butyl groups, ligands **L11** and **L12** gave poor results (compare entries 10–12). The similar trend could be seen from the performance of ligands **L13**–**L16** (entries 13–16). The better result obtained by **L15** in comparison with **L14** showed again that increased steric hindrance is necessary to get more effective ligands, while the best result was observed in the case of more electron-rich *N,N'*-bis(2,4,6-trimethoxyphenyl)-oxalamide (BTMPO, **L16**) as the ligand (entry 16). To fully demonstrate the importance of the electronic nature in the ligands, we also examined two series of ligands **L17**–**L24** and **L25**–**L30**. The results clearly showed that ligands generated from more electronic-rich anilines are more effective (compare entries 17–24 and entries 25–30). Additionally, decreased yields were obtained by using **L31** and **L32** indicating that aniline-derived diamides were better than aliphatic amine-derived diamides (entries 31 and 32), and such subtle change in electronic nature of the ligands provided significant influence on their efficiency. Noteworthy is that no coupling occurred under similar conditions if the oxalic diamide ligands were switched with other ligands such as amino acids,⁴ diamines,⁵ salicylaldehyde,⁶ 1,10-phenanthroline,⁷ diethyl-salicylamide,⁸ 1,3-diketones,⁹ pyrrole 2-carboxylic acid,¹⁰ *rac*-BINOL,¹¹ 2-dimethylaminoethanol,¹² β -keto esters,¹³ 8-hydroxyquinoline,¹⁴ and 2-pyridinyl- β -ketones.¹⁵

Using **L16** as the ligand, we tested other solvents and bases. Using DMF and DMA only slightly decreased the reaction yields, while much lower yields were observed in cases of MeCN and *t*-BuOH as the solvents (entries 33–36). Change of the base to Cs₂CO₃, K₂CO₃, and Na₂CO₃ also gave poorer results (entries 37–39). Thus, we concluded that the best conditions are K₃PO₄ as the base and DMSO as the solvent. To our delight, under these conditions a 89% isolated yield was obtained, even the loadings of both catalyst and ligand were reduced to 5 mol % (entry 40).

With the optimized conditions in hand, we next explored the reaction scope and limitations by varying aryl chlorides and amines, and the results are summarized in **Table 2**. We were pleased that a series of *para*-substituted aryl chlorides bearing either electron-donating or electron-withdrawing groups worked well, delivering the coupling products **3b**–**3k** in 60–96% yields. Three *meta*-substituted aryl chlorides were also good substrates, affording **3l**–**3n** in 70–97% yields. The formation of **3m** as a single product implied that chemoselectivity could be obtained between aromatic amines and aliphatic amines. Coupling with sterically hindered *ortho*-substituted aryl chlorides was found to be relatively difficult, and increasing the ligand loading and prolonging reaction time were required to ensure a good yield (for **3o**). The similar trend was also observed from the reactivity difference between 1-naphthyl chloride (**3s**) and 2-naphthyl chloride (**3t**).

A variety of biologically interesting heteroaryl amines could be assembled from the corresponding heteroaryl chlorides using the

Table 2. Scope of CuI/BTMPO Catalyzed Coupling Reaction of (Hetero)Aryl Chlorides with Amines^a

^aGeneral conditions: **1** (1 mmol), **2** (1.5 mmol), CuI (0.05 mmol), BTMPO (0.05 mmol), K₃PO₄ (1.0 mmol), DMSO (1.0 mL), 120 °C, 24 h, isolated yield. ^bThe reaction was conducted with 5 mol % CuI and 10 mol % BTMPO for 48 h. ^cReaction was conducted with 20 mmol of aryl chloride, 2.5 mol % CuI, and 2.5 mol % BTMPO at 120 °C.

present method. These aromatic heterocycles include pyridine (**3u**, **3v**), thiophene (**3w**), protected indole (**3x**), benzothio-
 phene (**3y**), benzothiazole (**3z**), quinoline (**3aa**), and quinoxaline (**3ab**). Furthermore, two aryl chlorides with the additional heterocycles underwent the coupling smoothly, providing arylamines **3ac** and **3ad** in 78% and 81% yields, respectively.

In terms of amine coupling partners, the use of substrates with a long alkyl chain (**3ae**), hydroxyl (**3af**, **3ao**, **3ar**), furanyl (**3ag**,

3am), cyclic alkyl (**3ah**–**3ak**, **3ap**–**3as**), vinyl (**3al**), ketal (**3an**), and carbamate (**3ap**) groups was found to give the aryl amination products in good to excellent yields. This fact, together with its compatibility with a wide range of functional groups such as amide, thioether, cyano, ketone, ester, trifluoro, amine, and heterocycles that was observed during varying (hetero)aryl chlorides, makes the present method a reliable and attractive approach for assembling (hetero)aryl amines.

The present reaction was quite sensitive to steric hindrance of amines, as evident from the different reactivity displayed by linear alkylamines and cyclic alkylamines (compare **3ae**, **3af** with **3ah**, **3aj**). For cyclic alkylamines, reactions needed higher ligand loadings and longer times to give complete conversion. Another evidence came from the aryl amination with secondary amines. Only 50% yield of **3au** was observed when coupling of 4-methylphenyl chloride with pyrrolidine, a rather reactive secondary amine. Further improvements by using suitable ligands are required to solve this problem. Interestingly, when sterically hindered amines were utilized, electron-poor aryl chlorides were found to be more reactive than electron-rich aryl chlorides (compare **3ah**, **3at** with **3as**, **3au**).

In conclusion, oxalic diamides are discovered to be effective ligands that have enabled the CuI-catalyzed amination of less reactive (hetero)aryl chlorides under relative mild conditions. A wide range of functionalized (hetero)aryl chlorides and amines were compatible with the present reaction conditions, thereby allowing the synthesis of (hetero)aryl amines with diverse structural features. More importantly, oxalic diamide ligands are quite cheap, conveniently available, and easily tunable. These remarkable features make this method very attractive for the preparation of (hetero)aryl amines. Unlike previous investigations on ligand-promoted copper-catalyzed Ullmann-type reactions where only limited ligands were employed from commercial resources and little or no information was able to be collected for its structure–activity relationship,²¹ the present investigation has demonstrated the potential to gain the structure–activity relationship of ligand for copper-catalyzed reaction and allowed us to discover more effective ligands through such structural modifications. This finding may stimulate further ligand design for Cu-catalyzed arylation reactions. The mechanistic studies and application of these ligands in other coupling reactions are actively pursued in our laboratory, and the results will be disclosed in due course.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

📄 Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/jacs.5b08411.

Experimental procedures and compound characterization (PDF)

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📄 Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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